

Having described the invention, I claim:

1. An apparatus for depositing bone graft material into a mammalian body comprises:
 - a barrel member having an inner surface with internal threads, the barrel including an exit port through which bone graft material placed into the barrel exits the barrel;
 - a plunger member disposed coaxially within the barrel member for pushing the bone graft material toward the exit port in the barrel; and
 - means for advancing the plunger member within the barrel member.
2. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plunger member has a smooth outer surface and a helical pathway is defined between the outer surface and the internal threads in the barrel member, whereby the bone graft material is guided through the barrel to the exit port along the helical pathway.
3. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the outer surface of the plunger member has an outer diameter that is slightly less than the major diameter of the internal threads in the barrel member to help prevent bone graft material from becoming jammed between the outer surface and the internal threads.

4. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the means for advancing the plunger member includes a pivotable lever.

5. The apparatus of claim 4 wherein the lever includes a row of rack teeth engaged with a complimentary set of rack teeth on the plunger member, wherein pivotal movement of the lever causes axial movement of the plunger member.

6. The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the plunger member is rotatable and includes external threads that are complimentary to and engaged with the internal threads in the barrel member to assist in moving the bone graft material toward the exit port in the barrel.

7. An apparatus for depositing bone graft material into a mammalian body comprises:

a barrel member having an inner surface with internal threads, the barrel including a radially oriented exit port through which bone graft material placed into the barrel exits the barrel;

a plunger member disposed coaxially within the barrel member for pushing the bone graft material along the helical path toward the exit port in the barrel; and

a mechanism operatively coupled with the plunger member, the mechanism being movable to cause the plunger member to advance within the barrel member.

8. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the plunger member has a smooth outer surface and a helical pathway is defined between the outer surface and the internal threads in the barrel member, whereby the bone graft material is guided through the barrel to the exit port along the helical pathway.

9. The apparatus of claim 8 wherein the outer surface of the plunger member has an outer diameter that is slightly less than the major diameter of the internal threads in the barrel member to help prevent bone graft material from becoming jammed between the outer surface and the internal threads.

10. The apparatus of claim 9 wherein the mechanism that advances the plunger member includes a pivotable lever.

11. The apparatus of claim 10 wherein the lever includes a row of rack teeth engaged with a complimentary set of rack teeth on the plunger member, wherein the pivotal movement of the lever causes axial movement of the plunger member.

12. The apparatus of claim 7 wherein the plunger member is rotatable and includes external threads that are complimentary to and engaged with the internal threads in the barrel member to assist in moving the bone graft material toward the exit port in the barrel.

13. An apparatus for depositing bone graft material into a mammalian body comprises:

a barrel member having an inner surface with internal threads, the barrel including an exit port through which bone graft material placed into the barrel exits the barrel;

a plunger member disposed coaxially within the barrel member for pushing the bone graft material toward the exit port in the barrel, the plunger member being rotatable and including external threads that are complimentary to and engaged with the internal threads in the barrel member to assist in moving the bone graft material toward the exit port in the barrel.

the plunger member being rotatable and including external threads that are complimentary to and engaged with the internal threads in the barrel member to assist in moving the bone graft material toward the exit port in the barrel, and

means for advancing the plunger member within the barrel member.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein the plunger member has a smooth outer surface.

15. The apparatus of claim 14 wherein the outer surface of the plunger member has an outer diameter that is slightly less than the major diameter of the internal threads in the barrel member to help prevent bone graft material from becoming jammed between the outer surface and the internal threads.